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## IB program cancelled



Twin sisters Meagan (left) and Ashley (right) Rankin stand outside of Campbell Collegiate where they graduated and took IB classes. Photo by Alex Johnson.

**Alex Johnson**  
@alexJschool

Regina Public Schools decided that the International Baccalaureate (IB) program will be permanently phased out of the school division, at a board meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 12.

Darren Boldt, deputy director of student achievement for Regina Public Schools, said that it was a tough decision for the division because it has offered the IB program at Thom and Campbell Collegiate for over 30 years.

"We know that we wanted to provide equal access to an enriched program for all students," he said, adding this is what the decision came down to.

Rory O'Hagan, an IB teacher at Campbell Collegiate, said the program made Campbell a better school.

"All of the students, including students that were not in the IB program, I think still benefitted from it. It brought teachers into the school who had greater expertise in their particular fields, and that helped all students," he said.

The IB program offered a world-recognized enriched program. "Past and present IB teachers all agree that the international aspect of IB is a benefit to the program," the board's report stated.

National recognition of bilingualism in French and university credit

recognition were other benefits of the program, enabling graduates to go directly into some second-year university courses after high school.

"It's pretty obvious that Saskatchewan doesn't care about its future. They whine and they complain when young people run off to places like Alberta, but when they take away things like (IB) from our youth they're robbing the whole province," said Ashley Rankin, 30, who took IB classes at Campbell and is studying geography at the University of Regina.

"It's really sad because it was such a great program that prepared me for university," said Rankin's twin sister Meagan, who also took the IB program and graduated from the U of R with a political science degree.

Low enrolment at Thom Collegiate prompted the initial program phase-out. From 2010 to 2016 the number of IB exams written at Thom dropped from 73 to 17. On the other hand, Campbell's program was doing well. In 2015, 85 exams were written, up from 51 in 2010.

The board report noted that although the program was open to students across the city, enrollees were mostly from the Thom and Campbell high school boundary areas. The school board wanted to make sure all interested students had the opportunity to take the program based on a central location in the city.

In 2015, the school board decided to stop the program at Thom and Campbell Collegiate, and planned to send future students to Balfour High School. But based on feedback gathered by the school division, students showed low interest in attending Balfour, prompting the decision to end the program.

Although making the program accessible to students across the city played a major role in the cancellation of the program, Boldt admitted that cost was also a factor in the decision.

The program at Thom and Campbell totaled over \$750,000 in 2014-2015, including fees to accredit each school, exams and couriers, professional development and staffing.

Less-costly Advanced Placement Program classes in all public high schools will replace the IB program. In 2014-2015, AP was offered at Balfour, Sheldon and Winston Knoll collegiate at a total cost of \$6,800, which worked out to \$100 per student, compared to \$7,592 per student at Campbell and \$20,875 at Thom, the board report stated.

"We know that through our research that IB and AP are very similar in what they offer students, and AP is much easier to offer students versus having a stand-alone IB program where students would have to leave their home school and come to that (new) school," said Boldt.

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# Seven Oaks workers on strike

**Michael Joel-Hansen**  
@mjhskcdn

Driving by the Best Western Seven Oaks on north Albert Street in Regina, motorists may notice members of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 1400 walking the picket line. Members voted to take job action on Dec 14, 2015.

Much of the dispute between workers and management stems from some proposed changes to employee benefits. Under the previous agreement, workers paid 15 per cent of the benefits premium. In its current offer, Best Western Seven Oaks is asking employees to increase their contribution to 50 per cent.

Glenn Weir, general manager of the Best Western Seven Oaks, said this would put the hotel in line with other Regina hotels that provide benefits to their employees. Weir went on to emphasize that the offer which is on the table is the "final offer."

But employees can't afford the premium hike, according to Norm Neault, CWUL 1400 president. Neault said half of employees already opt out of benefits because they feel they are too expensive. This works in the employers' favour because when employees opt out, the employer no longer has to pay its share, Neault said.

As well, raising the premium for benefits would basically eliminate any real wage gains for employees, he said. According to Neault, this amounts to "taking money out of one pocket and putting it in another."

Weir said benefits are not the only contentious issue. Union access to the workplace is also on the table. Weir said that the union wants "unfettered" access to the hotel and employees. Previously, union representatives could speak with workers



Laureen Smith (left) stands with a union representative on the picket line. Photo by Michael Joel-Hansen.

while they were performing their duties. Weir said this was disruptive to the workplace.

Neault said the issue of access to the work place has been brought up by the employer as a "smokescreen." He added, restricting union access makes it harder for the union to communicate with and engage members.

Benefits and union access to the workplace are issues across the board in labour relations, according to An-

drew Stevens, a professor of business at the University of Regina.

Stevens, who specializes in labour relations, agreed with the union position that increased benefits payments, alongside cost of living increases, could easily wipe out any real wage gains. Employees were "being asked to give up something," he said.

Stevens added that in workplaces like hotels, which have many part-time workers and high employee

turnover, union access is important. "No union wants to be dependent on management for access," he said.

As for how long he sees the strike going on, Stevens said he believes that "management has the upper hand." For this to change, he said there needs to be support from labour activists and the public.

"People shouldn't have to choose between a wage increase and benefits," he said.

# Fougere: no value to candidate criminal record checks



Mayor Michael Fougere stands by council's decision to not request criminal record checks for civic election candidates. Photo by Emily Pasiuk.

**Emily Pasiuk**  
@emilypasiuk

Want to run in this fall's civic election? Not even your criminal record can stop you, and that's not going to change in 2016.

The executive committee of Regina City Council is not recommending that candidates running in the civic election submit a criminal record check.

An administrative report, compiled on January 8, outlines Council's history in voting against the requirement for criminal record checks to be attached to the nomination paper for candidates in municipal elections. The issue came up in 2012, and the recommendation is not being made to council this year either.

"It is unclear what benefit collecting this information would have on the Election Process," the report states.

As it stands, there isn't a municipality in Saskatchewan that requires its candidates to submit criminal record checks, and according to the report, "it is not expected" that any cities in Saskatchewan will implement this practice.

Mayor Michael Fougere stands by

the council's decision: "The thought is that you aren't disbarred from running for office if you have a criminal record; thus by doing the check, you aren't informing the public either way," he said. "So the thought is making it less complicated. ... Council felt we haven't done it before, no need to do it now."

"At the end of the day, it wouldn't add value to those people, and there's nothing precluding you from running if you have a criminal record," agreed Ward 6 councillor Wade Murray.

However, Sue Delanoy, the executive director of The Elizabeth Fry Society of Saskatchewan, has a different opinion. The Elizabeth Fry Society is an organization that promotes "an end to recidivism and support crime prevention through a social development approach."

"Anybody that has been incarcerated and is working anywhere usually has to disclose that. Lots of places of business need a record check in a vulnerable service sector requirement so I don't see why anybody that we have running for office wouldn't have to have that. I think that would be good practice. I think it's transparent and it would be really positive," she said.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 3**



# No budget creates information gap



Jim Farney, professor of political science at University of Regina, says the province's third quarter financial report will not fill the information gap created by the absence of a provincial budget. Photo by Brandon Harder.

**Brandon Harder**  
@old\_harder

For the first time since before the turn of the millennium, Saskatchewan's government will not be tabling a provincial budget between March 18 and April 6. This is of particular importance to Saskatchewan residents, given a provincial election is scheduled for April 4.

As residents will want to know where the province stands financially before they head to the polls, premier Brad Wall has stated that a full third quarter financial report will be released.

"We'll be releasing it prior to the writ being called and the writ will be called sometime, I'm guessing, in early March," said Kevin Doherty, minister of finance. "It's typically a 28-day writ period. The premier hasn't made that decision yet as far as I know, but he's the one responsible for when the writ is dropped and we go into election campaign. (The third quarter report) will be out sometime around the last week of February or the first week of March."

As for a budget, Doherty said if the

Saskatchewan Party is re-elected, the earliest the province is likely to see a budget is mid to late May due to legal processes and debate of the throne speech following the election.

Although the report will shed light on the province's finances, the information offered in the third quarter report will differ greatly from the perspective granted by a provincial budget, according to Jim Farney, as-

**"The economic update is going to fill some of that (information) gap."**

**Jim Farney**

sociate professor of political science at the University of Regina.

"The economic update is going to fill some of that (information) gap," said Farney. "It will tell us what the government thinks its position is, but a budget is really a forward-looking document and because you've got to put numbers to things, a fairly detailed forward-looking document. We won't have that before the election."

"This time around, because the

economy has not been so good, because oil is low, because the dollar is dropping, the government is going to have to make some big changes," said Farney. "Probably (there will be) cuts, because I can't see this government raising taxes, and I don't think we're likely to see that picture put out in front of us without a budget."

Because the report will provide the only numbers available, Farney said

citizens should keep their eyes on a few areas of importance.

"I would expect to see an accounting of what the fallen resource prices and the fall in the dollar has done to government revenue," said Farney. "I would look carefully for things like transfers in from the Crowns, which traditionally both NDP and Sask Party governments have used to try and backfill holes in the budget."

"I would see if they project a defi-

cit or not," said Farney. "It's hard to see how they won't, but how big is it? Even little things, like often they'll identify what the price of oil is going to be. Not having a crystal ball right now, if getting to (the financial picture) they think they're at requires \$50/barrel oil, they're probably being too optimistic, and they're being too optimistic for political reasons – they want a small deficit. That would be the type of thing I'd look for."

Of course, while campaigning before an election, every party puts forth an economic plan within their party platform. However, Farney said a campaign platform is not as revealing as a budget.

"A tabled budget has numbers developed by the ministry of finance attached to everything," said Farney. "While it's not perfect, you can go back and see the assumptions they're making for all of their projections. No party platform is going to be that detailed or that fully costed."

The last report issued by the minister of finance on Nov. 30, 2015 indicated the province was facing a deficit of \$262.2 million.

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

"We make choices based on what we know about a person's past."

Although Delanoy said stigma can prevent past criminals from running for office, she said, "I think if somebody does have a criminal record, then they feel that they're stigmatized and they don't figure the rest

of society probably would accept them. But again there's also a period of time where you can have some of that abolished." Delanoy also believes there is value in knowing the criminal past of a potential candidate because "Somebody who has been through a system, or has done wrong and maybe has done well by it can often be somebody that we can learn a lot from."

Some professions such as teaching require criminal records checks. Ryan Kardynal, a teacher at W.S. Hawrylak Elementary School agrees with Delanoy. "I personally think that everybody should have to get a criminal record check," said Kardynal. "I wouldn't want to be working next to somebody who has been convicted at one point maybe for a murder or ag-

gravated assault.

"If you are planning to run, you should expect your entire past to be an open book. Having a record is definitely a disadvantage but I don't think it's unfair to have that information made public," added Kardynal.

Election Day is Oct. 26, 2016.



# Ignite Adult Learning puts student “on top of the world”



Ignite Adult Learning graduates listen to former graduate Ashley Fayant speak about life after Ignite. Photo by Brad Bellegarde.

**Brad Bellegarde**  
@InfoRediculous

It was just one year ago that 26-year-old Kyle Kinequon from Starblanket First Nation didn't know what he wanted to do. "I was basically looking for work but really not knowing what to do," said Kinequon.

One year later, he has found his way with the help of Ignite, a Regina adult learning program.

"When I went to Ignite, that's when I actually found what I wanted to do," he said.

Family and friends of 11 graduates gathered at the Ramada Plaza in Regina on Jan. 14 to celebrate the hard work and achievements of each apprentice over the last 32 weeks. It was the program's 38th graduation ceremony.

Chosen as the Cycle 38 valedictorian, Kinequon said he now has aspirations to enter post-secondary education.

"I want to go to university. I want to go and do something with finance. That's my main goal right now," he said.

Ignite Adult Learning's program

is an intensive 32-week course that provides students with a wide range of skills and knowledge to prepare themselves for a professional career. Facilitator Mona Hill believes programs like this are essential to professional development.

"If you are looking for an environment that is supportive, non-judgmental and you want to be able to move into the workplace, Ignite will help you do that," said Hill.

"They showed me responsibility and they showed me how to be accountable and reliable," Kinequon said. "But they gave me means to do something with my life and that's the biggest thing."

Describing how he has changed over the last year, "(I'm) someone who is on top of the world!" said Kinequon. "I feel like I can do anything I

want right now after the program."

"They really incite the inner flame within you to do something and that's why I think they might call it Ignite," said Kinequon.

The cohort of graduates learned everything from public speaking skills through their Toastmasters class, which will assist with job interviews and self-confidence, to how to deal with addictions through a smart recovery program.

**Kyle Kinequon**

"We talk about addictions (and) how addictions affect every facet of our lives," said Hill.

"You can learn to understand addictions and you can learn to understand yourself. If we're looking to change habits that are not healthy for us there are tools that will help us to be able to change that," said Hill. "That's what it's about. You want to

**"They really incite the inner flame within you to do something and that's why I think they might call it Ignite."**

quit smoking, you want to quit gambling, you want to quit buying clothes or overeating you want to quit the drugs, then you have the tools to do that."

An important part of the professional development aspect of Ignite is the mentorship program. "Each one of our apprentices has a mentor from the business community," said Hill. "Many of them come from human resources departments in some of the crown corporations and other corporations in the city. They come in and offer their time [to] mentor one apprentice every cycle and they become a friend and a confidant."

Ignite Adult Learning opened its doors in 1990 as Multi-Cultural Enterprises Inc. with a focus on helping at-risk young adults become contributing members of the community. In 2012, it was rebranded as Ignite Adult Learning Corporation.

Since Ignite opened its doors, it has averaged a 75 per cent graduation rate and, according to its website, 70 per cent of those graduates move immediately into post-secondary education or the workforce.

# Door hours extended on campus

**Cheryl Lu**

@cherylisaic

The nights of partying at the University of Regina's The Owl and worrying about getting back to your dorm before 11 p.m. without stepping into the snow are over, for now. As part of a trial program called Safe Route, the indoor pathways between The Owl and Paskwāw/Wakpá Towers (former North/South Residences) will welcome their residents home with open doors until 1 a.m. every Friday.

"It's been something we've wanted to do for a long time," says Devon Peters, president of the U of R Student Union, adding this is the first time the door opening hours have been extended.

"We negotiated with the campus security and residence services, and we are going to be doing it as a trial program for the near future," said Peters. "And once the trial's off, in around February, we are going to review the program and see how it's going, then hopefully be able to extend it two more nights in a week."

Peters also explained why they started this trial program, "The majority of (residents) are students who are of age and are looking for something to do on a week night. Walking outside at night in the cold is not safe, (and) it's not comfortable."

Peters described the result so far as "very good." He says the policy means more than just avoiding the coldness. "By opening up these interior corridors at night we can help students (to) be more safe," he said. "We can take some unsafe activities that have been occurring in the residences, alcohol consumption and stuff like that, and move it into a location that's more suited for it. The Owl, where (it's) supervised and safe, and



University of Regina Student Union president Devon Peters. Photo by Cheryl Lu.

we have waiters and staff around."

Peters said the trial also benefits students who don't drink by "taking students who want to drink out of residence." "We take them away from people who would rather be studying, who would rather be in a quiet space in the residence and not have to deal with someone throwing in a house party," he said.

To Peters, having the corridors open doesn't equal encouraging students to drink late. "The students are going to drink regardless. Alcohol and academics have been connected since the 1500s," said Peters. "Drunk people are coming in and out of the residence regardless."

"I think it'll be good, so then people aren't walking outside, so they don't get cold," said Brett King, a student living in Paskwāw Tower.

But some students suggested the extended opening hours are not enough.

"I just finished a semester in England, and they have a 24-hour library. So I think (considering) the size that the university is, there has to be 24-hour access," said Joyann Tonge, a resident of Wakpá Tower. "It's just needed."

Peters thinks to have 24-hour access is "a good idea" despite the difficulties to execute it. "The challenge is maintaining a secure campus, but

we are taking the steps to manage the risk," said Peters. He suggested there are not enough campus security guards on at night, because the spending increases on campus security guards will be under administrative spending, which has been "opposed to" by the university over the last couple of years.

According to Peters, they have already made progress before extending door-opening hours by successfully extending the closing time of the Grind, a coffee shop, from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. during exam time.

Peters said he is "pretty optimistic" about the trial. "I would hope that it becomes the norm," he said.



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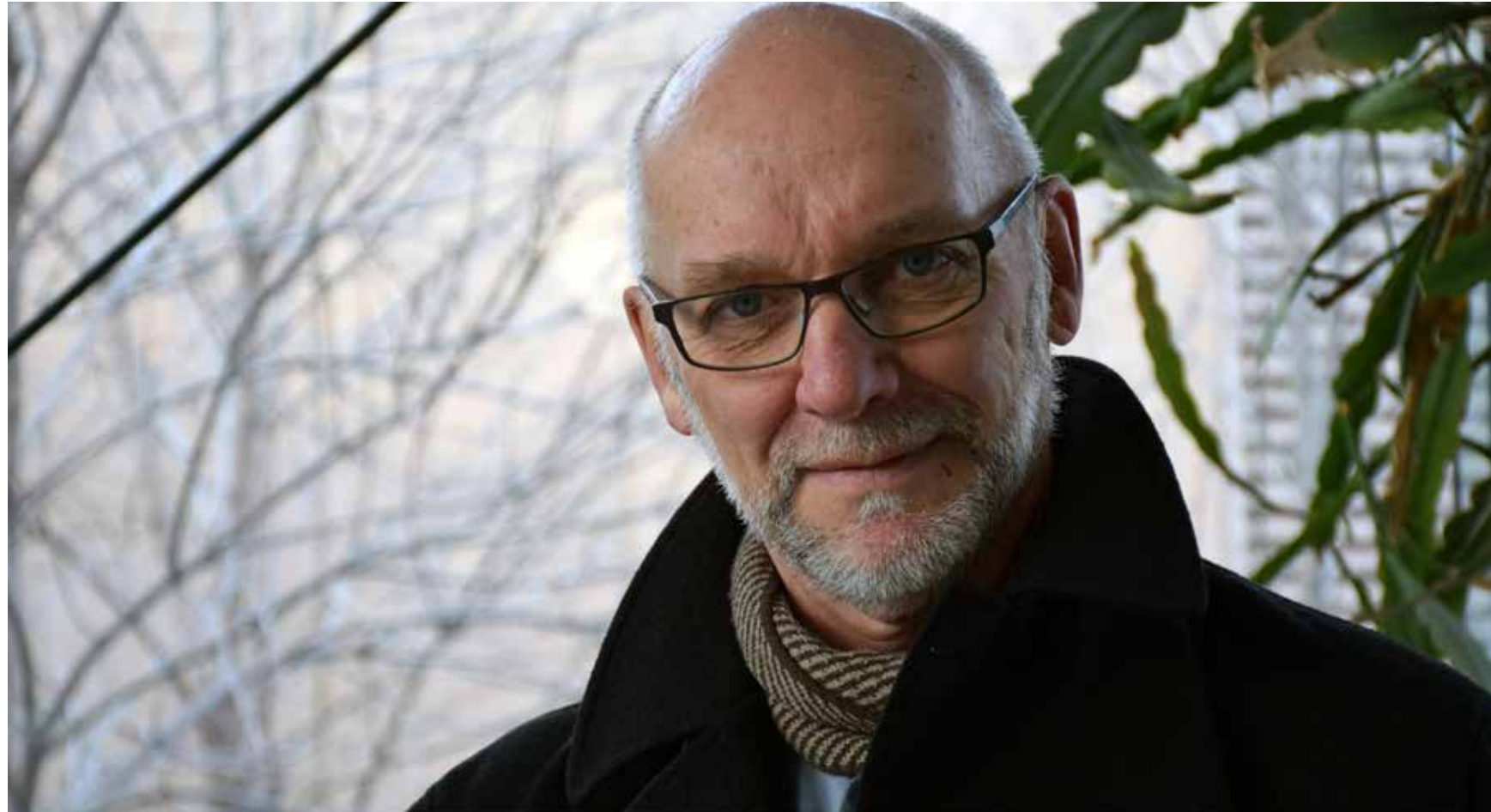


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# Saskatchewan poet laureate appointed



Gerald Hill, Saskatchewan’s new poet laureate, began his term Jan. 1, 2016 and will finish Dec. 31, 2017. Bottom right: Hill writing in his journal. Photos by Jessie Anton.

**Jessie Anton**  
@JessieAnton13

When Gerald Hill became the new Saskatchewan poet laureate, every goose sang like Adele, the Canadian dollar and the price of oil went up, and the Roughriders were back on top—in other words, the minute he was appointed, everything fell into place, according to his latest poem, at least.

Parallel to his writing, Hill plans to take a fresh approach to being the 2016-2017 Saskatchewan poet laureate. Heading in a modern direction via the Saskatchewan Poet Laureate Facebook page—where he posts short YouTube videos of him reciting stanzas of his hottest poem, “When I Became Poet Laureate”—Hill is already in his element and finding the imaginative in his new position.

When Hill discovered that he would take over the role as Saskatchewan poet laureate, he wasn’t surprised. “If you’ve been around for a certain period of time or if you’re of a certain age, you’re sort of eligible. So, in that sense, it’s sort of my turn,” he said, modest, yet sure.

He remembers it as though it was last Tuesday. During a routine November bike ride through Wascana Park, he received the news by phone from the Saskatchewan Writers’ Guild, and later finalized things by signing a two-year contract to be a local celebrity and poetry idol.

The Saskatchewan Poet Laureate Program, the first provincial program of its kind in Canada, started in 2000 with the support of the Lieutenant Governor, the Saskatchewan Arts

Board, Saskatchewan Book Awards and the Saskatchewan Writers’ Guild.

Although poet laureate is traditionally a ceremonial role, “I’m not so interested in the ceremonial,” admits Hill. “I want to have fun with my job, I want to have fun with my writing. It’s important to deliver an experience for people to explore.”

Hill’s desire to climb aboard a literature rollercoaster of exploration began at a young age. From his early years of re-writing commercials to his more-recent writing adventures in classrooms worldwide, Hill’s need to add texture and colour through language has proven powerful in his own life and to those that he has influenced along the way.

For Ariana Vogel, one of Hill’s former students at the University of Regina, it is his “digging deeper” techniques that remind her why she loves writing. “Gerry helped me become a better writer, which in turn helped me become more confident in teaching writing to my students in my internship,” said Vogel, who is working toward an education degree.

Like Vogel, Katya Wenc is one of Hill’s former creative writing students. For Wenc, it is Hill’s drive to help writers pursue something deeper that makes him unforgettable. “He makes you write about what makes you uncomfortable, and that brings out raw material that a young writer may not tap into on their own,” explained Wenc. “His approach was a new perspective that furthered my love for the creative.”

When told of Hill’s new position, Wenc said, “Moving forward as poet

laureate allows him to share his love for writing with even more people across the province, including those who may not consider themselves writers.”

Hill has great plans to travel and to be very proactive in his role as poet laureate. Not even two weeks into his two years, Hill has already contacted various local arts councils and venues where he hopes to plan poetry events to share his love for writing across the prairies, amid his own personal poetry projects.

In between endeavours, Hill finds solace in his day-to-day writing around Regina. “It’s the act of applying language to ordinary situations that’s inspiring. That’s all I need,” he said.



## “Dog and Time #5”

When you see dog tied to his table  
sweaty from overloading his backpack  
at the library and taking the long way here

in the shadows downtown or the three-hour  
lag between waking up and bringing  
that daily latte to his lips

and he’s thinking the usual re  
shrinking bayou shrinking  
polar bear habitat and while

he’s waiting he’s hearing things  
not from his own head he’s pretty sure but  
the woman at the next table (“It would feel

really good but I might regret it later”)  
and he’s decided to hell with it his body  
is his body and this is what it looks like—

when you see dog like this before  
his latte shows up and he’s telling  
a former colleague who’d asked

for updates that just now dog passed  
the men’s wear shop and a blue sports  
jacket  
he’d love to wear but for the rolled up  
cuffs—

when in other words dog might as well be  
speaking to his hat as getting on with things  
you know he’s got the future on his mind

where else would it be future  
being the content mind the form  
denial the general approach

to the shrinking habitat his life  
draws. Already he can feel  
snip snip the release and drifting

away of former powers. In the end  
his right hand is all that survives  
as tender grip on a latte at last.

~ Gerald Hill

“Dog and Time #5” was inspired by Hill’s quest for a “good coffee shop” during his two-month stint as Doris McCarthy Artist-in-Residence at Fool’s Paradise in Toronto.



# Scottish tavern comes to Regina



Part owner of Bobby's Place, Rockert Haakenson, pouring a pint. Below photo: Mural by Lindsay Clark at Bobby's Place. Photos by Richelle Peace.

**Richelle Peace**  
@RichellePeace

From Fanny's Fabrics, to night clubs like the Drink and Pure Ultra Lounge, 2044 Dewdney Avenue has been the location of several businesses over the years but Bobby's Place is here to stay, according part-owner Robert Haakenson.

According to Regina's Warehouse Business Improvement District, there are over 550 businesses in the area, and executive director Sandy Doran said that "most seem to be doing very well."

Doran thinks that Bobby's Place fits well with other businesses in the area, mostly because (it is) one more place for food and entertainment (and it) is open for lunch. We have only had positive feedback about Bobby's opening, and have had no complaints."

The warehouse district is the known area in Regina for people to enjoy anything from dancing, to drinking and having good food at places such as Bushwakker Brewpub or McNally's Tavern.

Bobby's Place has been open since early December and offers a new variety of entertainment on the strip. "We provide great entertainment, a really cool atmosphere, home-cooked cuisine, (and) we have a phenomenal whisky selection and phenomenal draft selection," said Haakenson.

The Scottish tavern is the second one of its kind, the original Bobby's

being in Moose Jaw, which was run by Haakenson's parents. The decision was obvious for Haakenson to open another location with the growing popularity and the overwhelming number of people coming to trivia nights in Moose Jaw.

The warehouse district was the perfect location, in Haakenson's opinion. "We recognized Bushwakkers as

Pure Ultra Lounge, Yaya Wang, said the warehouse district doesn't work for every business. Wang thinks it is difficult for a business such as a night club to thrive in a small place like Regina.

"It has low foot traffic and things are spaced out quite sparsely," said Wang. In her opinion, for a business to be successful in this area, it must

of scotch. He watched his parents manage Bobby's Place in Moose Jaw and wanted to carry on the torch.

Haakenson wanted to let his parents enjoy being grandparents, and decided to take the tavern to Regina. The name Bobby is a tribute to his grandfather and he continues to honour him through keeping customers happy.

"When someone walks in the door, my bartender is already pouring their pint. He knows what they have," said Haakenson.

The tavern offers 20 import beers from all over the world, over a hundred single malt whiskeys, which does not include bourbons and Canadian or Irish whiskeys, and offers entertainment such as bagpipe playing and other bands from across Canada.

Brenda Williams, who goes to Bobby's Place on the weekends with her friends, said it's important to support local businesses. "My experience there the first time was amazing. I really enjoyed the pipe band there (and) the food was [also] amazing. I would absolutely recommend it," Williams said. When she goes to the tavern she feels welcome from the atmosphere and the location does not seem to be an issue for her, either.

"The (previous bars) were all for young people. This is for young and old and everyone is more welcome," she said.



a strong pub. Whereas most people would say (they're) competition, we would argue it's collaboration," said Haakenson. He wanted to surround himself in an already-established area and 2044's past did not affect his decision at all.

However, the previous manager of

fit a different model than a night club.

Haakenson agreed with this point and said that "night clubs are a dying breed."

For Haakenson, it's all about family tradition. He grew up having parties in his kitchen with many instruments, loud music, with no shortage



# Alleged asylum seekers' sexual assaults in Germany: a concern for Regina?



Regina Open Door Society helps refugees settle smoothly. Photo by Richelle Peace.

**Busayo Osobade**  
@busayoh14

Following the incident in Cologne, Germany where over 100 women and girls claimed they were sexually abused and robbed by gangs of men of "Arabic and North African appearance" in major cities on New Year's Eve, public concerns have been raised on how refugees and immigrants are educated for life in their new countries.

In Regina, where more than 100 refugees were recently settled, no problems have been reported.

A 2015 publication by City of Regina says the immigration rate in the city has grown over the years since 2003 with approximately two per

cent annual increases.

Getachew Woldeyesus, manager at the Regina Open Door Society said, "We have a curriculum that is developed by Citizenship and Immigra-

**"Rape is not a problem of settling refugees or settling immigrants, rape is a problem because we are in a patriarchal world and it happens all the time."**

tion, it includes everything from human right to culture to Canada as a country, Canadian people. So we do a lot of orientation for refugees when they come into Canada"

"I don't believe there is a difference in people's culture that will be hard to reconcile, the role of children might be different and elders but its not so significant that people cannot adjust

**Gill Arnott**

to," he said.

While Woldeyesus cannot totally guarantee immigrants do not commit crimes, he said the incidence of crime is very low. "Mostly, they are here to

work and to make sure their family is safe and in a good environment," said Woldeyesus.

"Rape is not a problem of settling refugees or settling immigrants, rape is a problem because we are in a patriarchal world and it happens all the time," said Gill Arnott, executive director of the University of Regina Women's Centre.

Arnott said that women's bodies are always on the line when there is a war or a clash of cultures. "People have been resistant in a lot of countries to opening borders, so this is the easy way to say, 'Those people don't know how to treat women' but this happens all over the world all the time, so it has nothing to do with refugees or immigrants," she said.

Arnott rejects the accusation that the men committed sexual assaults because they were Muslim. "There is no religion and culture that says rape is okay. That's garbage! From culture to culture, this is consistent that its okay to target women. This is not about Islam, Christian men rape women too, (so) this has nothing to do with Islam," she said.

"We live in a culture that teaches women to be afraid but we shouldn't be teaching women to be afraid or being careful not to get raped...We should be focusing on teaching people not to rape women, training young men to make right decisions, empowering young men to know what is right and wrong and to chose who they are going to be in that moment. Women can take all the whole defence courses, that doesn't matter.

And until we target men that violating people's bodies isn't okay, we will continue to have this, no matter what we teach women about not getting raped," she said.

## Syrian refugees have big impact

**Laura Beamish**  
@laurabeamish16

Over 10,000 Syrian refugees have made their way to Canada since November, with 15,000 more scheduled to come.

Regina has recently received over 160 Syrian refugees and more are expected.

The Regina Open Door Society is a non-profit organization that helps to integrate newcomers into the community. "We were given funding to hire more workers," said Getachew Woldeyesus, the society's settlement, family and community services manager.

Comparing Regina, a smaller city, to more multicultural cities found in Canada, Woldeyesus said, "Regina is a small city, but there is a very large community. Sometimes big cities are more difficult because you have to learn a lot of things."

Although the programs for the refugees are still in the early stages, Woldeyesus said, "So far it has been very good."

The Regina Open Door Society is always available to help whomever it

can. In the past, the society on average would see about 250 newcomers in a year. This is not far off from the amount of refugees the city of Regina has already seen, with the expectation of more with every coming week.

As a non-profit organization, they are always looking for community partners. The University of Regina has a large international community with multiple international programs available. The UR International office is working towards helping with the new Syrian refugees.

The university is more than willing to help out, but there is still a lot that needs to be done, according to Shayla Dietrich, who works in U of R admissions. Dietrich said right now the university is trying "to figure out where the education piece fits in the program. We're meeting with other partners in the city who actually make a plan for when the refugees come to Regina. What do they need, what kind of services do they need." Dietrich said so far it has been, "us just stepping in to offer to help."

The University of Regina will be meeting with the Regina Open Door Society and other organizations in



UR International at the University of Regina works to help new refugees. Photo by Laura Beamish.

the coming weeks to put programs together and figure out ways to help.

With many Syrian refugees already arriving and living in the city, some programs are just starting to come to-

gether. Saskatchewan is expecting to receive around 800 Syrian refugees by the end of February.



# Outdoor rinks desperately need upgrades



Regina's Outdoor Hockey League wants to raise money for facility improvements, including the addition of players' boxes. Below, children skate on one of Regina's many outdoor rinks. Photos by Allison Bamford.

**Allison Bamford**  
@allisonbamford

Teams of the Regina Outdoor Hockey League (OHL) are trying to improve their rinks, which need several facility upgrades.

According to Peter Joyce, coach at the Cathedral rink, the outdoor rinks used in the OHL "were built quite a few years back and ... a lot of the facilities are nearing the end of their useful life."

The OHL is a free-of-charge hockey league for youth ages eight to 18 who otherwise would not have the chance to play in organized sports. The volunteer-run league uses nine rinks across the city and receives its funding from Ehrlo Sport Venture. Ehrlo Sports Venture also offers an equipment loan program where youth can borrow equipment and return it at the end of the season.

The City of Regina is in charge of

maintaining the ice surfaces and facilities at the outdoor rinks. However, Joyce would like to see improvements done to these rinks.

Joyce said a group of volunteers have been working "in collaboration with the Ranch (Ehrlo Sport Venture) and trying to work with the City to develop a five-year plan to reinvest and improve the rink facilities that the Outdoor Hockey League uses."

The Cathedral rink is currently fundraising on its own for the installment of players' boxes as "sort of a first step" in improving the facility, Joyce said.

Without players' boxes "you have to have the kids stand in a snow bank on the other side of the boards," Joyce said.

"It will cost \$2,800, not including the in-kind contribution of labour" from a local construction company, Joyce said.

This "first step" would make a big

difference in the team's play.

"The players' boxes would let us have games outdoors," said Joyce. "We are currently a league that whenever we have a game we play indoors, which is kind of funny for an Outdoor Hockey League."

The addition of players' boxes is not the only improvement needed, according to Joyce.

"In our case, you need lights to be able to see at night. That's when we run our programs," Joyce said. "We need things like lines on the ice to run our drills and so forth...to teach kids what an offside is."

The Cathedral rink is not the only outdoor rink in the OHL that needs an upgrade.

Chip Nixon, zone coordinator and coach at the Grassick outdoor rink located in North Central, said his rink is also in need of improvements.

"We've been asking for a new shack for over 10 years," Nixon said.

When asked what obstacles are holding back the improvements, Nixon only had one thing to say: "Empty promises from the voices of politicians."

Improvements to Grassick rink would mean a lot to Nixon and the North Central community.

"Talk about keeping kids out of trouble and all of the good stuff that helps communities prosper and grow," Nixon said. "It would just give the communities a sense of pride and more belonging if there was nicer facilities, especially in North Central."

As for now, the improvements being made to rinks are only possible through individual fundraising.

"Anyone could fundraise it's just a matter of finding time," said Nixon. "When you work full time and have kids, I'm just happy that we have the city on our side with cleaning the ice."





# Agriculture conditions glum for Quill Lakes



High precipitation before the freeze up could put Quill Lake farmers in deeper waters.. Photo by Tennesa Wild.

**Tennesa Wild**  
*@tennessa\_wild*

Rising water levels and high precipitation rates are cause for concern for the agriculture community surrounding the Quill Lakes.

The Saskatchewan Water Security Agency monitors water sustainability. The agency's 2015 Conditions and Freeze Up Report was released on Dec. 10 of last season.

"Precipitation over the entire province is near normal with the exception of an area between Last Mountain Lake and the Quill Lakes," the report stated.

"It has been wet for several years running," said Patrick Cherneski, manager of climate operations for Drought Watch, a division of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. The Quill Lakes area is a particular area of interest as The Saskatchewan Water Security Agency has been actively searching for a solution to the rising salt lake waters.

The continued rise in water and higher than normal precipitation percentages may pose a serious concern for agriculture in the area according to Kelsey Dale, an articling agrolgist at the Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists and a past resident of Plunkett, Sask. which is east of the Quill Lakes.

"Saturated soils have a detrimental effect on crops. When you have water logged soils it restricts or stunts the plant growth. Soils that are filled with water basically deplete oxygen from the soil," said Dale.

The surrounding soil would also be

susceptible to high saline levels from the lake.

"If the water ever recedes, that land is very unproductive and almost unusable," said Dale. High saline soil levels mean it's harder for plants to take in water and some plants like beans and wheat are sensitive and do not grow well in such conditions.

Since 2005, the Quill Lakes water level has risen a staggering 6.5 metres. As of an August 2015 SWSA report, 27,000 acres of private land and 58,000 acres of Crown land have been impacted. If or when the lakes rise another metre, the lake will likely overflow. The SWSA estimates another 83,000 acres of private property would be lost.

"A lot of the land is pasture land, so a lot of native grasses are grown there and whether they are going to grow back or not is really questionable," said Dale.

"An area which covers the Last Mountain Lake and Southeastern portion of the Quill Lake's basins received over 200 per cent of normal precipitation over the 30 day period preceding freeze up," the SWSA reports.

The impacts of that rain is still to be determined. "That's some of the areas they're going to be watching and have concerns with going into this Spring," said SWSA spokesperson Patrick Boyle.

In September 2015, the agency proposed diverting fresh water from Kutawagan Creek away from Quill Lake to Last Mountain Lake. The proposal was later dropped as stakeholders and public consultants decided

not to proceed. Herb Cox, minister responsible for the SWSA, assured the public that the agency is continuing to search for potential options for the situation.

Snowfall and winter conditions are still to impact spring conditions and the Spring Runoff Reports will give a more accurate picture of conditions in the spring.

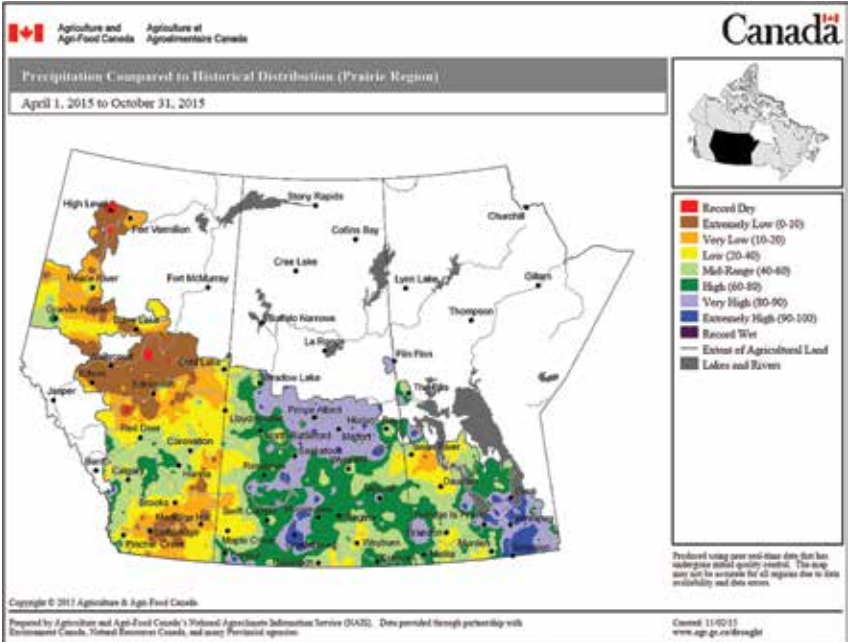
Stats Canada is a long-time climate monitor that continues to witness an increase in mean temperatures and precipitation within Saskatchewan over past decades.

Stefan Kienzle, the chair of the University of Lethbridge department of geography, has studied climate

data throughout the past 60 years in Canada. The data shows the growing season for crop farmers has lengthened by two to three weeks because of the reduction in frost days.

Although high precipitation has had a negative impact, the temperature increases have been positive for farmers.

The map below can be found in the 2015 Conditions at Freeze-up Report on the Saskatchewan Water Security Agency.  
[www.wsask.ca](http://www.wsask.ca)





# U of R research: many Saskatchewan lakes help reduce carbon dioxide



The University of Regina campus sign. Photo by Joelle Seal.

**Joelle Seal**  
*@joelleseal*

While salty lakes often carry a bad rap for their negative effects on soil and water wildlife, recent research out of the University of Regina shows that Saskatchewan’s hard water lakes can play a positive role in limiting Canada’s greenhouse gas emissions.

The study found that global warming has fundamentally changed the chemistry of southern Saskatchewan’s salty prairie lakes, causing them to act as a carbon sink by capturing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. With warmer climates, there is less ice cover throughout the year, which causes the lakes to become less acidic. This change in chemistry allows these water bodies to capture CO<sub>2</sub>, and this offsets about one-third of carbon emissions from Saskatchewan farms.

“We studied pretty much all of the lakes in southern Saskatchewan,” said lead researcher Kerri Finlay. “We studied the six lakes of in the Qu’Appelle chain. Then there were 50 smaller saline lakes. Peter Leavitt, a biology professor at the U of R, has been sampling those lakes for over the last 20 years. Pretty much all of them were doing the same thing.”

The study was first published on Feb. 25, 2015 in the U.K.-based environmental science journal, *Nature*. The research has gone on to receive international attention, including a story by Canadian correspondent Daniel Lak for the international news network Al Jazeera.

The research was conducted by U

of R researchers Kerri Finlay, Bjorn Wissel, Peter Leavitt, Gavin Simpson, Matthew Bogard, and Richard Vogt, in collaboration with University of Minnesota PhD student Benjamin Tutolo.

Finlay hopes their research will lead to changes in provincial environmental policy. “We’re hoping to start communication with the provincial government about getting (these lakes) into the global carbon (inventory),” said Finlay. “There’s a lot that could be done, and I’m really excited about

**“We’re putting so much money into artificial carbon capture, it just seems to make sense to invest in natural ways to do this.”**

**Kerri Finlay**

the prospects of taking advantage of these systems.”

Environment Canada produces a National Inventory Report regarding greenhouse gas sources and sinks in Canada. “(These documents) are a carbon inventory, and are accounting for sequester and emission of carbon,” explained Finlay. “They account for everything, (but) lakes are nowhere in this budget. I would love to see them added in.”

Along with changes to the carbon

budget, Finlay hopes the research will lead to more positive changes to preserve and utilize this natural carbon capture process.

“We’re putting so much money into artificial carbon capture, it just seems to make sense to invest in natural ways to do this,” said Finlay. For Finlay, preserving these lakes is important to utilize their carbon capture abilities.

Finlay added that further research could show that farm dugouts and sloughs may be sequestering carbon

as well, and further development of these water bodies could help reduce carbon emissions.

Contacted to comment on the University of Regina’s research, a Ministry of Environment spokesperson stated that while aware of some research being done over the past year, the ministry does not have the report and is therefore not in a position to comment on it.

## Six Interesting Carbon Dioxide Facts:

1. Is a contributor to global warming.
2. 1.5 times the density of air.
3. A carbon atom has four electrons.
4. There are carbon dioxide molecules in space.
5. Carbon has the highest melting and sublimation point of all elements.
6. Carbon Dioxide can stay in the atmosphere anywhere from 50 to 1,000 years.



# Tough times ahead for Postmedia



Regina's Leader-Post, whose papers are seen here, is only one of many newspapers owned by the cost-cutting Postmedia. Photo by Alex Antoneshyn.

**Alex Antoneshyn**  
@AAntoneshyn

During a teleconference hosted by Postmedia Network today, held to discuss the company's report on their first quarter, president and CEO Paul Godfrey admitted that whatever trouble the media company may be facing, it's not alone.

"There's no doubt that our entire industry continues to face significant pressures from a shifting competitive landscape and the changing behavior and appetite of audiences. Navigating through into a new way of doing business is our daily focus and so our transformation continues," he said.

Released earlier today, the report announced that Postmedia's cost-savings program would be increased by \$30 million to a total of \$80 million, it's projected completion the end of the 2017 fiscal year. With the first \$50 million to be implemented by May 31, it's possible that the next year will see changes at the Leader-Post beyond those of the printing and branding kind.

Postmedia Network, which owns

the Regina Leader-Post as well as other dailies like the Montreal Gazette and Calgary Herald, noted a net loss of \$4.2 million for the period that ended November 30, 2015, which is significantly less than the \$10.3 million recorded for the same quarter the previous year.

Likewise, the company's operating income and revenue have increased. Operating income had risen from \$18.0 million in the first quarter of last year to \$19.4 million this year, while revenue rose from \$169.5 million to \$251.1 million.

The \$81.6 million revenue increase, according to the statement, is partly due to the acquisition of Sun Media properties. Completed this past August, the \$316-million transaction transferred English-language publications in Calgary, Ottawa, Toronto, and other markets, from Quebecor Inc. to Postmedia Network.

Despite these seemingly growing numbers, Postmedia's report announces that the cost-savings program, launched in July 2015, will be increased by \$30 million.

And according to the president,

what must be done will be done.

"Where we can remove duplication, we must. Where we can nurture green shoots, we will. And where we need to make tough decisions, tough choices, to give up our best chance for the future, we'll do that too," Godfrey said during the teleconference.

For Christopher Waddell, publisher of JSource.ca and professor of business journalism at Carleton University School of Journalism, Postmedia's announcement of cost cuts is no surprise.

According to Waddell, the report demonstrates that "(Postmedia) continues to have big problems. They've been suffering along with lots of other companies."

Indeed, the report notes that the company's total operating expenses increased \$84.7 million for the quarter.

Furthermore, print advertising revenue was down 17.6 per cent, print circulation by 6.7 per cent, and digital revenue by 5.7 per cent.

"All the revenues are going in one direction – and they're going down. That's not good for any company,"

said Waddell.

Yet, Postmedia remains positive. The report estimates that \$17 million was saved in this year's first quarter, bringing the total amount of savings implemented since the program's launch to about \$32 million.

"While we have put tremendous focus on the ongoing redesign of our cost structure, we also continue to introduce new initiatives into the marketplace," Godfrey said in the report.

"Our digital audiences are growing, both in size and engagement, and harnessing that power for advertisers through new service offerings including digital marketing services and content marketing is part of our core strategy for the year ahead," the report continued.

However, Waddell expects big changes in the future, including further consolidation of papers and their production.

"The logical thing would be to shut the Suns down," said Waddell, referring to the properties acquired this past year. "But whether they actually do that and how quickly they'll do that, we'll see."

## What do you think about job cuts to news journalism?



"I think it has a lot to do with technology and having everything accessible at your fingertips. So instead of doing paper media it's easier to just go online."

-Amy Kramer



"After (Post Media) supported the Conservative party, the morning after we went to cancel our subscriptions and we had to go on hold there were so many people canceling."

- Edgar Dumont



"A lot of it is going online, so we don't need traditional TV sets. I'm getting all my news online. Economist, Wall Street Journal, Stats-Canada, YouTube."

-Zein Kassim